

**ASSEMBLY BILL**

**No. 844**

**Introduced by Assembly Member Nation**

February 20, 2003

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An act to add Chapter 8.7 (commencing with Section 25740) to Division 15 of the Public Resources Code, relating to fuel efficiency.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 844, as introduced, Nation. Fuel efficiency: replacement tires.

Existing law, with respect to energy conservation and development, states the policy of the state, among other things, to fully evaluate the economic and environmental costs of petroleum use and to establish a state transportation energy policy that results in the least environmental and economic cost to the state.

This bill would require the State Energy resources Conservation and Development Commission to develop a fuel efficiency program of statewide applicability for replacement tires for passenger cars and light trucks that is designed to ensure that replacement tires are at least as energy efficient, on average, as the tires sold as original equipment on these vehicles.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

1 SECTION 1. (a) The Legislature finds and declares both of  
2 the following:

(1) Substantial evidence indicates that replacement tires for passenger cars and light trucks are less energy efficient, on average, than tires installed as original equipment.

(2) Improving the energy efficiency of replacement tires for California's passenger and light truck fleet could yield significant economic and environmental benefits without affecting vehicle performance or safety, while also reducing California's vulnerability to oil price increases.

(b) It is the intent of the Legislature to provide the statutory foundation for a regulatory framework to ensure that replacement tires sold in California are at least as energy efficient, on average, as original-equipment tires.

SEC. 2. Chapter 8.7 (commencing with Section 25740) is added to Division 15 of the Public Resources Code, to read:

#### CHAPTER 8.7. FUEL EFFICIENCY

25740. No later than March 31, 2005, the State Energy Resources Conservation and Development Commission shall develop specifications for testing procedures, a fuel efficiency rating system, and tire manufacturer reporting and labeling requirements for passenger car and light truck replacement tires, that will enable consumers to make more informed decisions when purchasing tires for their vehicles.

25741. (a) The State Energy Resources Conservation and Development Commission, after appropriate notice and public workshops, shall develop a fuel efficiency program of statewide applicability for replacement tires for passenger cars and light trucks, designed to ensure that the replacement tires are at least as energy efficient, on average, as the tires sold as original equipment on new passenger cars and light trucks. The program shall include efficiency standards and mandatory labeling, and may include, but not be limited to, other methods to promote the purchase of energy-efficient replacement tires, as purchase incentives, Web site listings, printed fuel economy guide booklets, and mandatory requirements for tire retailers to provide fuel-efficiency information.

(b) The efficiency standards shall do all of the following:

(1) Be designed to secure the maximum technically feasible and cost-effective fuel savings.

- 1     (2) Not adversely affect tire safety.
- 2     (3) Not apply to deep tread, winter-type snow tires, space-saver
- 3     or temporary use spare tires, off-road tires, or tires with nominal
- 4     rim diameters of 12 inches or less.
- 5     (c) The program shall be operative by March 31, 2006. The
- 6     program, including standards, shall be reviewed and revised as
- 7     necessary, but not less than every three years. Under no
- 8     circumstances shall the program or standards be revised in a way
- 9     that reduces the average fuel economy of replacement tires.

